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PREACHER, *n. f.* [*prescheur*, Fr. from *preach*.]
 1. One who discourses publicly upon religious subjects.
 The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers.
Psaln lxxviii. 11.
 You may hear the found of a preacher's voice, when you cannot distinguish what he saith.
Bacon.
 Here lies a truly honest man,
 One of those few that in this town
 Honour all preachers; hear their own. *Crashaw.*
 2. One who inculcates any thing with earnestness and vehemence.
 No preacher is listened to but time, which gives us the same train of thought, that elder people have tried in vain to put into our heads before. *Swift.*
PREACHMENT, *n. f.* [from *preach*.] A sermon mentioned in contempt; a discourse affectedly solemn.
 Was't you, that revell'd in our parliament,
 And made a *preachment* of your high descent. *Shakesp.*
 All this is but a *preachment* upon the text at last. *L'Estrange.*
PREAMBLE, *n. f.* [*preambule*, Fr.] Something previous; introduction; preface.
 How were it possible that the church should any way else with such ease and certainty provide, that none of her children may, as Adam, dissemble that wretchedness, the penitent confession whereof is so necessary a *preamble*, especially to common prayer. *Hooker, b. v.*
 Truth as in this we do not violate, so neither is the same gainfayed or crossed, no not in those very *preambles* placed before certain readings, wherein the steps of the Latin service book have been somewhat too nearly followed. *Hooker.*
 Doors shut, visits forbidden, and divers contestations with the queen, all *preambles* of ruin, though now and then he did wring out some petty contentments. *Watson.*
 This *preamble* to that history was not improper for this relation. *Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion.*
 With *preamble* sweet
 Of charming symphony they introduce
 Their sacred song, and waken raptures high. *Milton.*
 I will not detain you with a long *preamble*. *Dryden.*
PREAMBULARY, *adj.* [from *preamble*.] Previous. Not in **PREAMBULOUS**, *s. use*.
 He not only undermineth the base of religion, but destroyeth the principle *preambulous* unto all belief, and puts upon us the remotest error from truth. *Brown.*
PREAPPREHENSION, *n. f.* [*pre* and *apprehend*.] An opinion formed before examination.
 A conceit not to be made out by ordinary eyes, but such as regarding the clouds, behold them in shapes conformable to *preapprehensions*. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
PREASE, *n. f.* *Preis*; crowd. *Spenser.* See **PRESS**.
 A ship into the sacred seas,
 New-built, now launch we; and from out our *prease*
 Chafe two and fifty youths. *Chapman.*
PREASING, *part. adj.* Crowding. *Spenser.*
PREBEND, *n. f.* [*prebenda*, low Latin; *prebende*, Fr.]
 1. A stipend granted in cathedral churches.
 His excellency gave the doctor a *prebend* in St. Patrick's cathedral. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
 2. Sometimes, but improperly, a stipendiary of a cathedral; a prebendary.
 Deans and canons, or *prebends* of cathedral churches, in their first institution, were of great use, to be of counsel with the bishop. *Bacon.*
PREBENDARY, *n. f.* [*prebendarius*, Lat.] A stipendiary of a cathedral.
 To lords, to principals, to *prebendaries*. *Hubberd.*
 I bequeath to the Reverend Mr. Grattan, *prebendary* of St. Audon's, my gold bottle-screw. *Swift's Last Will.*
PRECA'RIOUS, *adj.* [*precarious*, Lat. *precarie*, Fr.] Dependent; uncertain, because depending on the will of another; held by courtesy; changeable or alienable at the pleasure of another. No word is more unskillfully used than this with its derivatives. It is used for *uncertain* in all its senses; but it only means uncertain, as dependent on others: thus there are authors who mention the *precariousness* of an account, of the weather, of a die.
 What subjects will *precarious* kings regard,
 A beggar speaks too softly to be heard. *Dryden.*
 Those who live under an arbitrary tyrannick power, have no other law but the will of their prince, and consequently no privileges but what are *precarious*. *Addison.*
 This little happiness is so very *precarious*, that it wholly depends on the will of others. *Addison's Spectator.*
 He who rejoices in the strength and beauty of youth, should consider by how *precarious* a tenure he holds these advantages, that a thousand accidents may before the next dawn lay all these glories in the dust. *Rogers's Sermons.*
PRECA'RIOUSLY, *n. f.* [from *precarious*.] Uncertainly by dependence; dependently; at the pleasure of others.
 Our scene *precariously* subsists too long
 On French translation and Italian song.

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Dare to have sense yourselves; assert the stage,
 Be justly warm'd with your own native rage. *Pope.*
PRECA'RIOUSNESS, *n. f.* [from *precarious*.] Uncertainty; dependence on others. The following passage from a book, otherwise elegantly written, affords an example of the impropriety mentioned at the word *precarious*.
 Most consumptive people die of the discharge they spit up, which, with the *precariousness* of the symptoms of an oppressed diaphragm from a mere lodgement of extravasated matter, render the operation but little advisable. *Sharp's Surgery.*
PRECAUTION, *n. f.* *precaution*, Fr. [from *precautus*, Lat.] Preservative caution; preventive measures.
 Unless our ministers have strong assurances of his falling in with the grand alliance, or not opposing it, they cannot be too circumspect and speedy in taking their *precautions* against any contrary resolution. *Addison on the State of the War.*
 To **PRECAUTION**, *v. a.* [*precautioner*, Fr. from the noun.] To warn beforehand.
 By the disgraces, diseases and beggary of hopeful young men brought to ruin, he may be *precautioned*. *Locke.*
PRECEDA'NEOUS, *adj.* [This word is, I believe, mistaken by the author for *precidaneous*; *precidaneous*, Lat. cut or slain before. Nor is it used here in its proper sense.] previous; antecedent.
 That priority of particles of simple matter, influx of the heavens and preparation of matter might be antecedent and *precedaneous*, not only in order, but in time, to their ordinary productions. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
 To **PRECEDERE**, *v. a.* [*precedo*, Lat. *preceder*, Fr.]
 1. To go before in order of time.
 How are we happy, still in fear of harm;
 But harm *precedes* not fin. *Milton.*
 Arius and Pelagius durst provoke,
 To what the centuries *preceding* spoke. *Dryden.*
 The ruin of a state is generally *preceded* by an universal degeneracy of manners and contempt of religion. *Swift.*
 2. To go before according to the adjustment of rank.
PRECEDENCE, *n. f.* [from *precedo*, Lat.]
PRECEDENCY, *n. f.* [from *precedo*, Lat.]
 1. The act or state of going before; priority.
 2. Something going before; something past.
 I do not like but yet; it does allay
 The good *precedence*. *Shakesp. Ant. and Cleop.*
 It is an epilogue or discourse, to make plain
 Some obscure *precedence* that hath tofore been said. *Shakesp.*
 3. Adjustment of place.
 The constable and marshal had cognizance, touching the rights of place and *precedence*. *Hale.*
 4. The foremost place in ceremony.
 None sure will claim in hell
Precedence; none, whose portion is small
 Of present pain, that with ambitious mind
 Will covet more. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
 The royal olive accompanied him with all his court, and always gave him the *precedence*. *Howell.*
 That person hardly will be found,
 With gracious form and equal virtue crown'd;
 Yet if another could *precedence* claim,
 My fixt desires could find no fairer aim. *Dryden.*
 5. Superiority.
 Books will furnish him, and give him light and *precedency* enough to go before a young follower. *Locke.*
 Being distracted with different desires, the next inquiry will be, which of them has the *precedency*, in determining the will, to the next action. *Locke.*
PRECEDENT, *adj.* [*precedent*, Fr. *precedens*, Lat.] Former; going before.
 Do it at once,
 Or thy *precedent* services are all
 But accidents unpurpos'd. *Shakesp. Ant. and Cleop.*
 Our own *precedent* passions do instruct us.
 What levity's in youth. *Shakesp. Timon of Athens.*
 When you work by the imagination of another, it is necessary that he, by whom you work, have a *precedent* opinion of you, that you can do strange things. *Bacon.*
 Hippocrates, in his prognosticks, doth make good observations of the diseases that ensue upon the nature of the *precedent* four seasons of the year. *Bacon.*
 The world, or any part thereof, could not be *precedent* to the creation of man. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
 Truths, absolutely necessary to salvation, are so clearly revealed, that we cannot err in them, unless we be notoriously wanting to ourselves; herein the fault of the judgment is resolved into a *precedent* default in the will. *Saut.*
PRECEDENT, *n. f.* [The adjective has the accent on the second syllable, the substantive on the first.] Any thing that is a rule or example to future times; any thing done before of the same kind.
 Examples for cases can but direct as *precedents* only. *Hooker.*
 Eleven hours I've spent to write it over, *Shakesp. Lear.*
 The *precedent* was full as long a doing. *A realtor.*

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A reason mighty, strong and effectual,
 A pattern, *precedent* and lively warrant
 For me, most wretched, to perform the like. *Shakesp.*
 No pow'r in Venice
 Can alter a decree established:
 'Twill be recorded for a *precedent*;
 And many an error, by the same example,
 Will rush into the state. *Shakesp. Merch. of Venice.*
 God, in the administration of his justice, is not tied to *precedents*, and we cannot argue, that the providences of God towards other nations shall be conformable to his dealings with the people of Israel. *Tillotson's Sermons.*
 Such *precedents* are numberless; we draw
 Our right from custom; custom is a law. *Granville.*
PRECEDENTLY, *adv.* [from *precedent*, *adj.*] Beforehand.
PRECE'NTOR, *n. f.* [*precentor*, Lat. *precentur*, Fr.] He that leads the choir.
 Follow this *precentor* of ours, in blessing and magnifying that God of all grace, and never yielding to those enemies, which he died to give us power to resist and overcome. *Hamm.*
PRECEPT, *n. f.* [*precepte*, Fr. *praeceptum*, Lat.] A rule authoritatively given; a mandate; a commandment; a direction.
 The custom of lessons furnishes the very simplest and rudest sort with infallible axioms and *precepts* of sacred truth, delivered even in the very letter of the law of God. *Hooker.*
 'Tis sufficient, that painting be acknowledged for an art; for it follows, that no arts are without their *precepts*. *Dryden.*
 A *precept* or commandment consists in, and has respect to, some moral point of doctrine, viz. such as concerns our manners, and our inward and outward good behaviour. *Ayliffe.*
PRECEPTUAL, *adj.* [from *precept*.] Consisting of precepts. A word not in use.
 Men
 Can counsel, and give comfort to that grief
 Which they themselves not feel; but tasting it,
 Their counsel turns to passion, which before
 Would give *preceptual* medicine to rage;
 Fetter strong madness in a silken thread,
 Charm ach with air, and agony with words. *Shakesp.*
PRECEPTIVE, *adj.* [*preceptivus*, Lat. from *precept*.] Containing precepts; giving precepts.
 The ritual, the *preceptive*, the prophetick and all other parts of sacred writ, were most sedulously, most religiously guarded by them. *Government of the Tongue.*
 As the *preceptive* part enjoins the most exact virtue, so is it most advantageously enforced by the promissory, which, in respect of the rewards, and the manner of proposing them, is adapted to the same end. *Decay of Piety.*
 The lesson given us here, is *preceptive* to us not to do any thing but upon due consideration. *L'Estrange.*
PRECEPTOR, *n. f.* [*preceptor*, Lat. *preceptor*, Fr.] A teacher; a tutor.
 Passionate parenting carries rough language with it, and the names that children and *preceptors* give children, they will not be ashamed to bestow on others. *Locke.*
 It was to thee, great Stagyrite unknown,
 And thy *preceptor* of divine renown. *Blackmore.*
PRECESSION, *n. f.* [from *precedo*, *praeceffus*, Lat.] The act of going before.
PRECINCT, *n. f.* [*praecinctus*, Latin.] Outward limit; boundary.
 The main body of the sea being one, yet within divers *praecincts*, hath divers names; so the catholic church is in like sort divided into a number of distinct societies. *Hooker.*
 Through all restraint broke loose, he wings his way
 Not far off heav'n, in the *praecincts* of light,
 Directly towards the new-created world. *Milton.*
PRECIOUS, *n. f.* [from *pretiosus*, Lat.]
 1. Value; preciousness.
 2. Any thing of high price.
 The index or forefinger was too naked whereto to commit their *preciosities*, and hath the tuition of the thumb scarce unto the second joint. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
 Barbarians seem to exceed them in the curiosity of their application of these *preciosities*. *More's Divine Dialogues.*
PRECIOUS, *adj.* [*precieux*, Fr. *pretiosus*, Lat.]
 1. Valuable; being of great worth.
 Many things, which are most *precious*, are neglected only because the value of them lieth hid. *Hooker.*
 I cannot but remember such things were,
 That were most *precious* to me. *Shakesp. Macbeth.*
 Why in that raven's left you wife and children,
 Those *precious* motives, those strong knots of love,
 Without leave taking? *Shakesp. Macbeth.*
 I never saw
 Such *precious* deeds in one that promis'd nought
 But beggary and poor luck. *Shakesp. Cymbeline.*
 These virtues are the hidden beauties of a soul, which make it lovely and *precious* in his sight, from whom no secrets are concealed. *Addison's Spectator.*
 2. Costly; of great price: as, a precious stone.
 Let none admire
 That riches grow in hell; that soil may best
 Deserve the *precious* bane. *Milton.*

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3. Worthless. An epithet of contempt or irony.
 More of the same kind, concerning these *precious* saluts amongst the Turks, may be seen in Pietro della valle. *Locke.*
PRECIOUSLY, *adv.* [from *precious*.]
 1. Valuably; to a great price.
 2. Contemptibly. In irony.
PRECIOUSNESS, *n. f.* [from *precious*.] Valuableness; worth; price.
 Its *preciousness* equalled the price of pearls. *Wilkins.*
PRECIPICE, *n. f.* [*praecipitium*, Lat. *precipice*, Fr.] A headlong steep; a fall perpendicular without gradual declivity.
 You take a *precipice* for no leap of danger,
 And woo your own destruction. *Shakesp. Henry VIII.*
 Where the water dasheth more against the bottom, there it moveth more swiftly and more in *precipice*; for in the breaking of the waves there is ever a *precipice*. *Bacon.*
 I ere long that *precipice* must tread,
 Whence none return, that leads unto the dead. *Sandys.*
 No stupendous *precipice* denies
 Access, no horror turns away our eyes. *Denham.*
 Swift down the *precipice* of time it goes,
 And sinks in minutes, which in ages rofe. *Dryden.*
 His generous mind the fair ideas drew
 Of fame and honour, which in dangers lay;
 Where wealth, like fruit, on *precipices* grew,
 Not to be gather'd but by birds of prey. *Dryden.*
 Drink as much as you can get; because a good coachman never drives so well as when he is drunk; and then show your skill, by driving to an inch by a *precipice*. *Swift.*
PRECIPITANCE, *n. f.* [from *precipitans*.] Rash haste; head-
PRECIPITANCY, *s. long hurry.*
 Thither they haste with glad *precipitance*. *Milton.*
 'Tis not likely that one of a thousand such *precipitancies* should be crowned with so unexpected an issue. *Glanvill.*
 As the chymist, by catching at it too soon, lost the philosophical elixir, so *precipitancy* of our understanding is an occasion of error. *Glanvill's Sceps.*
 We apply present remedies according unto indications, respecting rather the acuteness of disease and *precipitancy* of occasion, than the rising or setting of stars. *Brown.*
 Hurried on by the *precipitancy* of youth, I took this opportunity to send a letter to the secretary. *Gulliver's Travels.*
 A rashness and *precipitance* of judgment, and hastiness to believe something on one side or the other, plunges us into many errors. *Watson's Logic.*
PRECIPITANT, *adj.* [*precipitans*, Lat.]
 1. Falling or rushing headlong.
 Without longer pause,
 Downright into the world's first region throws
 His flight *precipitant*. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iii.*
 The birds heedless while they strain
 Their tuneful throats, the tow'ring heavy lead
 Overtakes their speed; they leave their little lives
 Above the clouds, *precipitant* to earth. *Philips.*
 2. Hasty; urged with violent haste.
 Should he return, that troop so blithe and bold,
Precipitant in fear, would wing their flight,
 And curle their cumbrous pride's unwieldy weight. *Pope.*
 3. Rashly hurried.
 The commotions in Ireland were so sudden and so violent, that it was hard to discern the rise, or apply a remedy to that *precipitant* rebellion. *King Charles.*
PRECIPITANTLY, *adv.* [from *precipitans*.] In headlong haste; in a tumultuous hurry.
 To **PRECIPITATE**, *v. a.* [*praecipito*, Lat. *precipiter*, Fr. in all the senses.]
 1. To throw headlong.
 She had a king to her son in law, yet was, upon dark and unknown reasons, *precipitated* and banished the world into a nunnery. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
 Ere vengeance
 Precipitate thee with augmented pain. *Milton.*
 They were wont, upon a superstition, to *precipitate* a man from some high cliff into the sea, tying about him with strings many great fowls. *Wilkins.*
 The virgin from the ground
 Uptarting fresh, already clos'd the wound,
 Precipitates her flight. *Dryden.*
 The goddess guides her son, and turns him from the light,
 Herself involv'd in clouds, *precipitates* her flight. *Dryden.*
 2. To hasten unexpectedly.
 Short, intermittent and swift recurrent pains do *precipitate* patients into consumptions. *Harvey.*
 3. To hurry blindly or rashly.
 As for having them obnoxious to ruin, if they be of fearful natures, it may do well; but if they be stout and daring, it may *precipitate* their designs, and prove dangerous. *Bacon.*
 Dear Erythraea, let not such blind fury
 Precipitate your thoughts, nor set them working,
 Till time shall lend them better means,
 Than lost complaints. *Denham's Sophy.*
 3. To throw